The RARS EXCITER

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

No 315, July 1996 - Repeaters: 146.64-, 224.64-, 444.525+, 444.95+ BBS:772-9176

The *Rewarding* Hamfest:

CARY HAMFEST JULY 20

We are fortunate to have several good hamfests in our immediate area throughout the year.

As a longtime member of RARS, I've been to many RARSfests and worked in quite a few of them.

As a longtime member of JARS, I've been to most of the more recently begun JARSfests, and worked in quite a few of them also.

Yet, despite being a member of RARS and JARS, my favorite hamfest is the one upcoming in Cary on July 20th. I've found it to be the most **rewarding** hamfest of them all. It certainly was rewarding to me last year... I won the Grand Prize.

Thanks again guys.

So maybe you can get lucky this year.

Of course, being in July, you'll want to get there early.

There are some outdoor exhibitors, but the heat will have run them away by noon, so get there early to peruse the bargains.

In the air conditioned indoors, the hamfest lasts longer and I'm sure they'll have their usual array of radio and computer dealers to ply you with their wares.

The hamfest is held at the Cary Municipal Center, next to the Police Station and very close to

continued on page 4

SOBON FAMILY Makes Cover of CQ VHF Magazine

Some of you may have noticed familiar faces on the cover of the July issue of CQ VHF magazine. Paul NO0T, Laura AD4PU and Erin KE4RHU were featured in this month's issue. The emphasis of the article was on Ham radio as an educational tool for kids. Unfortunately the article was a bit short. No doubt with all of Laura and Erin's accomplishments we will be seeing more about them in future articles! Congratulations to all the Sobon's on making the front page!

Cyndi, KD4ACW

IS THIS YOUR LAST EXCITER?

Check your label. If it says "LAST ISSUE", then it's your last issue unless you renew.

But the good news is that you CAN renew and continue to enjoy the benefits of RARS membership for yet another year.

So, send in those dues to:
Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ
7329 Barberry Court
Raleigh, NC 27615

Or call him at 847-4641 if you have questions about your membership.

Curt KD4YU

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS), founded in 1969, has grown to be one of the premier radio clubs in North Carolina. Current membership is approximately 400.

The objectives of the club are to promote world wide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communication in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique, and to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

All persons interested in Amateur Radio, currently licensed or not, are eligible to apply for membership to the club.

Dues to the club are $18.00 per year (which runs from July 1 to June 30). Applications for membership may be obtained from any of the officers named below; from the newsletter editor, named on the facing column; or at any RARS Meeting.

Club meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 PM, at Forest Hills Baptist Church, on the corner of Clark Avenue and Dixie Trail, just off of Hillsborough Street.

In addition to the many social and special events, the club sponsors a 2 m repeater, W4DW, on 146.04/64 MHz. The club also sponsors repeaters on 223.04 / 224.64 MHz, 449.5 / 444.5 MHz, 449.95 / 445.95 MHz and a packet cluster node on 147.57 MHz. All repeaters cover Raleigh, and most of the surrounding Wake County area. The auto-patch on W4DW is now no longer closed and is open to all duly licensed amateurs.

1996 Officers:

President:	Cyndi Wood, KD4ACW 116 Waterfall Court Cary, NC 27511 380-7286 snockw@vms.sas.com
Vice President	Bruce Buck KC4UQN 305 Hillstone Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615 848-4538
Secretary:	Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO 211 Dundalk Way, Cary, NC 27511 362-9456
Treasurer:	Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ 7329 Barberry Court, Raleigh, NC 27615 847-4641

The EXCITER is published monthly by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and is mailed at no cost to its members.

Letters to the Editor, technical articles, items of interest to the ham community and guest editorials are actively solicited.

Any article published in the EXCITER does not necessarily represent the views of, the Officers, Board of Directors, Editor, or Society Membership, nor does publication thereof represent concurrence by the Officers, Board of Directors, Editor, or Society membership with the contents of the article.

Articles will be printed at the discretion of the Editor, and no article will be published unless it is accompanied by the name(s) of the person(s) submitting the article.

All copy must be in the hands of the editor by the end of the Board of Director's meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Articles submitted for publication may be hand or type written, an ASCII file on disk transmitted electronically via telephone modem, or on the ham bands using PACKET.

Ham related items for sale by the members will be advertised without charge for one issue, but may be re-submitted as often as desired. These ads must be non-commercial in nature.

Commercial ads will be run in return for the following donations to the club:

	Single Issue	Full Year
Business Card	$7.50	$75.00
Quarter Page	$11.25	$112.50
Third Page	$15.00	$150.00
Half Page	$22.50	$225.00
Full Page	$50.00	N/A

(Commercial ads must be of "camera-ready quality," and obviously can not be sent via ham bands.) Due to the reprographic process used, no color copy can be accepted.

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SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Young Ladies' Radio League

AMSAT

SOUTHEASTERN REPEATER ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings again! July is RARS membership renewal time. Don't forget to send that check in! WA4BPJ's address and membership information should be in the front of this Exciter.

We started out this month with another informative and entertaining monthly meeting. Mark, WD4KSE did a presentation on ATV. There was a good thunderstorm that brewed up about the time he was going to give a live demonstration. Luckily it calmed down long enough for Mark to make a QSO with Woody, KJ4SO in North Raleigh. I have a feeling with the help of the Triangle ATV Association, ATV will start catching on big in this area. Thanks Mark and Woody for giving us a glimpse of what ATV is all about!

This weekend was Field Day. We had another great turnout in Umstead Park. Special "thanks!" to Jeff AC4ZO and Mike WA4BPJ for organizing this event. From the sounds of things we are bound to have another high score. I heard of contact rates as high as 100 an hour, on CW! Many thanks also to the Band Captains and all the operators! I think the heat was a bit worse this year but it didn't seem to diminish the enthusiasm.

Remember to check out the Cary Swapfest on July 20th. See you next month!

73, Cyndi KD4ACW
President, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Additional "Thank-You's" for the Hamfest

I missed a few folks in last months article on the Hamfest. Many thanks to Chuck AE4CD, Jim KE4NKX, Frank W2VMD and all the VE's. Unfortunately I didn't get all the VE's names but I did want to make sure they were recognized for their contribution to the Hamfest.

Cyndi, KD4ACW

NEW TRIANGLE REPEATERS:

145.23 ORANGE COUNTY

147.195 RALEIGH

Two new repeaters have been squeezed into the crowded two-meter band in the Triangle area. (All frequencies given are in MHz.)

A repeater on 145.23(-) was activated a couple weeks ago by the Orange County Radio Amateurs. This machine requires 131.8 subaudible tone. It's located on the University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill. OCRA's 444.375 repeater is co-located with the new two-meter machine.

The second repeater came up in a test configuration on Field Day weekend, on 147.195(+). For a few weeks, it will be located on a 500 foot tower near Lake Wheeler, but its final address will be at the 1200 foot level of the WRAL/WRDC TV tower, southeast of Raleigh. (This tower already houses the PCRN's 146.88 repeater at the 1400 foot level, and the JARS' 147.27 repeater at the 850 foot level).

The 147.195 repeater is a privately owned, open repeater, sending the callsign KO4CW. The owners are Ken Walker KO4CW, and Ray Goodman N4BQF. (Ray's callsign had been heard on a 145.27 machine, before an ice storm knocked down the WRAL and WPTF TV towers in 1989.) Ken says it will have a variety of features, including a voice mailbox, temperature readout, and an autopatch. He hopes the machine will help public service communications in the area.

For more information on the 147.195 machine, call Ken at 872-9736, or e-mail him at walkerk@interpath.com, or call Ray at 469-1877.

How did these new two-meter repeaters appear when the band was supposed to be "full?" Careful shoehorning, with coverage tailored to meet SERA coordination parameters, permitted coordination.

The repeater on 145.23 was first pro-

posed by hams at Nortel (Northern Telecom) in the RTP. They negotiated with a repeater group in Virginia that is using the frequency, and promised a limited coverage machine who's users would not cause problems with repeaters there (the StARS/RARS machine on 145.13 was a similar limited-coverage arrangement). When the Nortel hams were unable to get a machine put together in time, they agreed to let OCRA occupy the channel for the time being. OCRA would like to put a two-meter repeater at their 1000 foot site on the WUNC tower, but 145.23 would not work there due the Virginia machine.

Previously 147.195 had not been available in the Triangle due to a 147.18 machine in Sanford (15 kHz adjacent channels need some geographic separation because our radios don't do a very good job of rejecting signals with 15 kHz channel spacing). The Sanford machine has not been on the air consistently for years, but I don't know if it is permanently off the air.

Finally, another repeater that has had an up-and-down history is back, sounding better than it has in years: the 147.36 machine in Durham features an open autopatch and fairly good coverage into RTP and north Raleigh.

Gary KN4AQ

CARY HAMFEST: JULY 20

continued from page 1

the center of downtown Cary. Talk-in will be on 147.15 MHz.

In this Field Day and workload rushed, hurry-up *EXCITER* time frame, I don't have the "official" contact person for the hamfest, but the contact person listed for the Cary club will probably be able to help you if you have questions. He's Bill Leach KB7LX, at 362-7427.

Exams will be given, but will be held at a separate (but nearby) site, so be sure to call if you want to take an exam.

I hope this year's Cary hamfest will be as rewarding to one of our readers this year as it was for me last year.

Curt KD4YU

FIELD DAY IN THE MEDIA

Looks like we got some good PR from Field Day - a Friday night lead-in as one of the 5 best "free" events of the weekend on WRAL-TV channel 5; a news story featuring Jeff AC4ZO, Sunday night on WLFL Fox-22, and a story on page 1 of the Metro section of the News & Observer that featured quotes and comments from several club members.

Gary KN4AQ

WAKE ENERGY CAMP

Spots are still available. See last month's *EXCITER* or contact Carol Hamilton at (919)856-5731 for more information.

ATLANTA Ham Station/Home For Rent During Olympics

Rent my attractive 3 Bedroom private home complete with 90 foot tower and 5 element 20, 15, and 10 meter monobanders during the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer.

DX PacketCluster connection and radios are also available. Single level, no stairs, 6 person hot tub in separate Florida-room. Located in quiet North-east suburb of Tucker 1 mile from Perimeter Highway and minutes from all Atlanta venues. Price negotiable depending on your needs.

E-mail to n6cr@ix.netcom.com or call Rick, N6CR during the day at (770) 446-8000 and evenings at (770) 667-8088.

73, Dr. Richard W. Musicer N6CR
via USENET

Editor's note: *On a recent trip to Atlanta, I noticed a sign tacked onto a post holding a stopsign. It said, "Rent your home for the Olympics for up to $1000 per day." ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER DAY! So if you want to rent this house, make sure your checks have enough space for a LOT of numbers on them.*

Crystalines

The May meeting of the RARS Crystals was held Tuesday, May 28, 1996 (note ladies - this is the 4th Tuesday) at Ryan's at Crossroads in Cary. We has 2 ladies, Mary Glenn and Robin, who attended for the first time (thanks to Bobbie and Pat for inviting them).

Lynn gave a brief description of what goes on at Field Day and why amateurs participate each year. After our June meeting at Ryan's, we will be meeting at the Golden Corral on U.S. 70 in the future. So, mark your calendars — June 25 - Ryan's at Crossroads in Cary — July 23 (remember the 4th Tuesday, not the last one) - Golden Corral on U.S. 70.

Lynn talked to Cap and Badge Man about making a one-line badge with Crystals scripted on it. It would be nice for those who already have badges that they prefer or for non-hams who just want to have something to identify them as Crystals. It was determined that I am the Crystals historian rather than librarian, since I keep a scrapbook with newsletters, pictures, and miscellaneous things. Actually being the historian is for an "older" member, but Lynn was too polite to say that!

Speaking of age — we found out that Linda had celebrated her 40th birthday over the weekend! No one would have guessed that milestone and she didn't mind people knowing the number, so I'm not telling any secrets. The staff from Ryan's joined us in acknowledging the occasion with much clapping and singing.

Tina was able to fit our meeting into her hectic schedule and it was good to see her. In my opinion, she is one courageous lady. She told me she will be having surgery AGAIN to straighten out those ankles. I certainly hope they get it right this time and we wish her the best of luck. Mary Glenn won the door prize, not bad for her first meeting.

Please join us for our next meeting, July 23 at Ryan's.

Liz KO4CK

* Men - A "Crystal Men's Auxiliary" has been forming, so don't feel left out - join them.

Lynn KO4QH

A Preview:
SCOUTS AT FIELD DAY

Editor's Note: *This article was written prior to Field Day, but did not reach me until after the deadline for the last issue. Therefore, this article speaks of Field Day in the future tense.*

It's going to happen. It's finally going to happen. This year, RARS will have the pleasure of having a Boy Scout troop assist us at Field Day. For the last several years, this seemed like a good idea, but there was never anyone who could make it happen. This year, Chris KE4TMO, stepped forward and agreed to handle the task. He has taken the responsibility very seriously, and has done a lot to prepare the Scouts for what will happen.

One of the things Chris has done, was to bring them to AC4ZO for a visit. During their visit, they got a brief description of the station equipment and antennae, and had a look at the station records. Next, come a demonstration of two meter FM operating, and then came the inevitable question: "How far away can you talk to people"? This is a question that can only be answered by demonstration. Words just don't suffice, here. Knowing what had to be done, with sweaty palms I removed the microphone from its spot on the shelf, and plugging it into the rig, called CQ on twenty meter SSB. (Yes, there is a microphone for the HF rig at AC4ZO). The answer came from a fellow in New Jersey, who was very glad to participate in a demonstration for our young friends. After a short, but nice QSO, we said 73 and returned the mike to its spot on the shelf. During that QSO, the excitement level among the 14 people in the shack seemed to pick up a fair amount.

Next, they saw a few clips from the previous Field Day video tapes that Gary has shot and edited. This did more than anything to prepare them for what they would be doing on the fourth weekend of June. Finally, they all received a Kenwood HT bookmark and an Archie Ham Radio Comic book which was provided by the Education Department.

Chris, thanks for arranging to have them with us for the big event, and thanks for bringing them

to visit. Lynn, thanks for providing materials from the Education Department. I am looking forward to this Field Day more than ever!

Jeff AC4ZO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

RARS Board Meeting
May 21, 1996

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on May 21. The meeting was called to order by KD4ACW at 7:16p . Members present were: KD4ACW, WA4BPJ, KE4FCJ, KO4QH, KD4RAA, AD4UL, KC4UQN, W4VFJ, KD4YU, and AC4ZO. The total attendance numbered 16.

On motion by AD4UL, seconded by KE4FCJ, the April minutes were approved.

WA4BPJ gave the Treasurer's report, and said that RARS membership is 380.

KC4UQN gave the VP report, and said that the June meeting will be a presentation on amateur television. In July, KM4UO will be discussing the early days of FM use in ham radio. August will be a presentation on model aircraft. Also, Pat KE4FCJ has agreed to organize the RARS picnic again this year.

KD4RAA gave the FM Committee report. He said that the repeater technical support group met on April 30, and the meeting was very productive. The next meeting is planned for June. Work is well under way on the new 146.64 machine. No delivery date has been set, however. Danny and Mike WA4BPJ have visited the Lake Wheeler site to evaluate its suitability as a home for the 444.95 machine, and the receive site for the six meter repeater.

KD4ACW, reporting on the hamfest, said that receipts are still trickling in, but that the hamfest will be writing a check to the club very soon.

KE4FCJ, speaking for the Nominating Committee, said that Ronnie WA4MJF has accepted the nomination for Hamfest Chairman for 1997.

KO4QH gave the Education Department report. She said that Walter KM4BU made a presentation to a group of Boy Scouts this month. The Education Department provided materials.

The following announcements were made:

AC4ZO - We have received a letter from NJ4F, the winner of one of the two plaques that RARS sponsors for the November Sweepstakes.

The following Board Member Comments were made:

AD4UL - The MS Society Spring Fling was a success, and help is still needed for the Special Olympics, on May 31, June 1 and 2.

KD4YU - Thanked the folks who have been helping get the Exciter labeled, stamped, and mailed.

KE4FCJ - Would like to hear suggestions for this years picnic.

KO4QH - The homebrew SIG is about to become active again, and may meet at the same time and place as the Crystals.

KD4RAA - WA4BPJ assisted the W4ATC group in putting up a large HF beam on Daniels Hall on NCSU.

On motion by KE4FCJ, seconded by KO4QH, the meeting adjourned at 8:37p.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO - Secretary

Regular RARS Meeting
June 4, 1996

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on June 4, 1996 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:40p by Cyndi KD4ACW who welcomed 97 members and 6 guests.

Mike WA4BPJ gave the Treasurer's report, and said that RARS membership is about 380.

At this point, President Wood, on behalf of the Hamfest Committee, presented a check to Treasurer Murphy in the amount of $11,500. (Applause)

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Yet another month has passed and you haven't availed yourself of the many benefits of advertising in the EXCITER. See page 2 for details so you can correct this oversight.

Cyndi read an article which appeared in Ladies Home Journal which showed amateur radio in a very bad light. She also said that the ARRL has provided them with more information, and demanded that they make amends, and Ladies Home Journal has agreed to run something in the next (July) issue.

Gary KN4AQ described a threat to the amateur 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands by another radio service. This commercial interest will make a proposal to the WRC at their next meeting.

Jeff AC4ZO said a few words about the upcoming Field Day initiative.

Ed KE4ZNU announced that the VHF/UHF SIGs new meeting place will be his house. Meeting time is still 7:00p.

Doug AD4UL displayed two plaques that he has received in appreciation of our support for public service events. He also read a letter received from the March Of Dimes. Lastly, he said that 21 hams assisted with the Special Olympics, and expressed his gratitude to all.

Dick KD4ISC, the Raleigh Area Skywarn EC thanked all who have participated in Skywarn nets, and announced that hurricane season begins in four days.

Cyndi than announced the coming of the RARS World Wide Web Homepage. It is being built by Errol KD4IHW. Also, Errol sends the message that OCRA has put a 2 meter repeater on the air on 145.23, PL 131.8.

Chuck, K4HF presented the Nominating Committee report for the position of 1997 hamfest chairman. The nominee is Ronnie WA4MJF. On motion by K4HF, seconded by KN4AQ, Ronnie was duly elected as 1997 hamfest chairman.

This ending the announcements and business, Cyndi introduced the guest speaker for the evening: Mark, WD4KSE, who made an excellent presentation and demonstration on amateur television.

Door prizes went to KB2IYS, WD4RDT, KC4UQN, AC4ZO, AC4QX, KE4ZNT, and KF4HQU.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31p.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO
Secretary

Amateur Radio - A National Resource

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

Address correction requested.

First Class Mail

Calendar of Events: July 1996

July 2: **Regular RARS meeting; Forest Hills Baptist Church, directions on page 2**

July 10: **RARS VHF/UHF SIG meeting, info, David N4YTO, 773-1437**

July 11: Information Highway User Group, info, Russ Lyday, 782-8703

July 15: **Scanner/Shortwave Listening SIG, info, Curt KD4YU, 772-0207**

July 16: **RARS Advisory Board meeting, 7PM, Forest Hills Baptist Church, All RARS members welcome.**

July 20: Cary Hamfest, info page 1

July 23: **RARS Crystals Dinner meeting, info, Lynn KO4QH, 787-1111 see article on page 5**

July 27: Asheville Hamfest, info Larry Brady KR4UF, 704-687-8383 or Alan AB4OZ 787-1111

Aug 3: High Point Hamfest, info Mark McMahan KB4MFP 910-887-3039 or Alan AB4OZ 787-1111

send additions, changes and corrections to the Editor as listed on page 2